

18 March 2025

## **He Is Risen from the Dead**

John 20: 1-9 tells the story of Mary Magdalene discovering the empty tomb. Confused and sorrowful, she runs to Peter and John fearing that Jesus' body has been taken away. When they arrive, they see the linen wrappings but not the body. At that moment though, they did not fully understand, something profound is happening – death has not won.

God is always at work in our lives and we too do not yet fully comprehend. In our experiences within our own lives, we stand before 'empty tombs' – situations that seem lost and we can become unsure and even disturbed. Perhaps our faith is shaken. Yet like Mary and the disciples, we look again, and we see more. We embrace hope that all will be well and come to the conclusion (not immediately) that what is before us is a new beginning.

Our world, as I compose these few lines can seem lost, with death and destruction and dictatorship all around us. The Christian must not lose hope and always be the one who sees light in the darkness. A Christian without hope is in fact dead.

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of Christian hope. Death in all its forms does not have the final say and God's love is far greater and more powerful than anything we fear. This is the message that the world needs to hear. When God's love is properly received and understood, humanity will begin to embrace each other rather than kill and destroy each other.

We seem to continually find this message of hope in every generation ignored or suppressed but again, the role of the believer is to rise up in this world not by using bombs or promoting a scorched earth, but by living as people of the resurrection.

The same power that raises Jesus from the dead is at work in our lives, transforming sorrow into joy and fear into strong faith. Our faith must be lived and our baptism must empower us for service by playing our part with our resurrected Lord in reaching out to a world that is wounded and in need of healing.

Jesus is risen from the dead Alleluia Alleluia.

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